

groups provided them. I believe that this blue ribbon commission should generate information as to the annual amount of Federal aviation user taxes that are collected or attributable to aviation activity within each metropolitan area in the United States and to compare these metropolitan area totals to the annual amounts of Federal airport grants that are annually received within each of these metropolitan areas.

This data would be highly useful to airport sponsors and metropolitan planning organizations for assessing the probable impacts of any recommended changes to the existing aviation user tax structure. The data which I wish to have developed would be for the latest year for which the information is available, and could involve estimates when actual data about the geographic source of specific aviation user taxes can't be determined precisely.

When the next FAA authorization bill is presented to us, this information would be useful in helping us make important judgments as to the equity of user taxes or fees in comparison to the airport grants our metropolitan areas have received.

Mr. PRESSLER. I agree with the Senator. The information you request should have been included within the charter of the blue ribbon commission that will be looking into these matters under this legislation. After this legislation is enacted, I will talk to the Secretary of Transportation to make sure that the Senator's request is satisfied and that the data he requests is assembled and timely made available to all of us. I appreciate his bringing this oversight to our attention.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Senator. I very much appreciate his efforts to follow through on this matter and I look forward to voting in favor of the conference report before us.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when the Federal Government enacted laws regulating the trucking industry, it created the Interstate Commerce Commission [ICC] to administer regulations pursuant to these laws. These regulations were repealed during the Carter administration. However, it was not until last year that Congress finally got around to eliminating the ICC.

The purpose of the ICC Termination Act of 1995 was simply to eliminate a bureaucracy that had outlived its usefulness. By its express terms, it was in no way intended to change the labor law.

Unfortunately, a technical error in the act—left uncorrected—could have a serious impact on labor law.

Since 1934, the interests of employees of express carriers such as FedEx have been protected under the Railway Labor Act.

Unfortunately, the ICC Termination Act inadvertently dropped the term "express carrier" from the Railway Labor Act.

This was not a deliberate change of law. In fact, the ICC Termination Act

expressly states that its enactment "shall neither expand or contract coverage of the employees and employers of the Railway Act."

The provision included in the FAA Reauthorization Act that has become the target of such rhetoric and controversy is nothing more than a technical correction.

If this technical flaw in the ICC Termination Act had been detected before its enactment last year, Congress would have corrected it without fanfare.

The debate today is not about being pro-union or pro-management.

The debate today is not about wages in America.

The debate today is not about anything except making a technical correction to clarify that express carriers are in the same position today with respect to the Railway Labor Act as they were last year prior to enactment of the ICC Termination bill.

We are not plowing new ground here. We are simply clarifying that what was law for over 60 years continues to be the law of the land.

All the heat and bluster of this debate cannot change this simple fact.

I hope my colleagues will join me in bringing this debate to a close, passing the FAA reauthorization bill and righting a technical wrong.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 18 minutes.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, if the Senator from Massachusetts has completed, then I have completed.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I have already spoken and put in the RECORD various praiseworthy notes of my association over the years with these outstanding Senators, both Republican and Democrat, who are leaving us. None have been closer to me, on the one hand, over on this side than HOWELL HEFLIN of Alabama. We have been in each other's States several times. I have gotten to know him and his distinguished wife, Mike—Elizabeth, I think, is her full name, if I am not mistaken. He is what someone would call a Senator's Senator. He had to serve in the role as chairman of our Ethics Committee. You can see the sensitivity of a Senator's Senator in the regard in any kind of local matter. I see they all have picked up the same thing I thought, or I picked up what they thought, relative to being the peanut Senator. The agricultural community in Alabama is going to be missing in representation, to a degree, because no one really can replace HOWELL HEFLIN.

We in the law field otherwise are going to be penalized because he, as a former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, has had profound judicial knowledge and also judicial feel for the

particular statutes and the issues before this particular body.

So I just cap it off by saying that this Senator is going to miss his humor. He has always had a good way of taking these complex human problems and issues and bringing them right down to the ground with some humorous story about someone he remembered back down in Alabama.

SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

We are fortunate in South Carolina to have the grandchildren of NANCY KASSEBAUM. I have always admired her for what the Senator from Rhode Island just said. She is a woman of steel, who makes up her own mind and takes the very difficult stands for her politically, because sometimes her very colleagues and others around may be voting otherwise. But you can bet your boots Senator KASSEBAUM of Kansas has studied, from all angles, a particular problem and made her own judgment as to what is fair and right in the interest of the people.

With respect to our friend, BILL COHEN, he is the one literate Senator that we have. I envy him, because in the evenings when we would be attending the various parties and receptions for the different groups visiting from your home State, and otherwise, we would always miss BILL. You would find out BILL is writing another book, reading some important document, or something else. We have read and not only heard his poetry and his books, but his sum-up talk here. Just this past week, I am getting a copy of that one for the good of the Senate and getting it printed, because I think it more or less sums up what has been occurring here in Government and politics, particularly in the U.S. Senate, good and bad, over the past 20-some years. We are going to miss him most of all, in my opinion.

SENATOR SAM NUNN

Mr. President, My neighbor is SAM NUNN. No one knows the defense budget better. No one is more conscientious about the Nation's security. No one has studied, in depth, the disarmament problem, and no one has worked to solve these particular problems, and no one has a greater respect for integrity amongst his colleagues than SAM NUNN of Georgia.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. President, I now want to mention my friend, DAVID PRYOR. I hope we can get him back here by morning. As we all know, his wonderful son has been under surgery down in Texas. And, of course, that is his first obligation, and we all understand that. We need every vote we can possibly get, but the most popular, obviously—and everybody will agree—was DAVID PRYOR's, because PRYOR always had a good word for everyone, and he centered on those things, such as the taxpayers' relief from the IRS, and something about the drug companies, or whatever it was. He went into it and stuck with it and then listened to the other Senators with respect to their particular interests.

That is the value of service in the U.S. Senate—education. We are supposed to learn. And that is why I have always stayed in politics, because I learn something new every day. I have also learned when to hush when the hour is past 6 o'clock and staff is looking at me like an aberration.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one nomination which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 543. An act to reauthorize the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1734. An act to reauthorize the National Film Preservation Board, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 198. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress and the day for the counting in Congress of the electoral votes for the President and Vice President cast in December 1996.

The enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 2:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2579. An act to establish the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism to the United States.

S. 640. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 811. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies regarding the desalination of water and water reuse, and for other purposes.

S. 1044. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize provisions relating to health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1467. An act to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes.

S. 1505. An act to reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids, and for other purposes.

S. 1711. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for a study of the Federal programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1965. An act to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

S. 1973. An act to provide for the settlement of the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, and for other purposes.

S. 2153. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located in Brewer, Maine, as the "Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Post Office Building", and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 5:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of 2 U.S.C. 154, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 102-246, the Speaker appoints Mr. Edwin L. Cox of Dallas, TX, as a member from private life on the part of the House to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Marguerite S. Roll to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2297. An act to codify without substantive change, laws related to transportation and improve the United States Code.

H.R. 3005. An act to amend the Federal securities laws in order to promote efficiency and capital formation in the financial market, and to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to promote more efficient management of mutual funds, protect investors, and provide more effective and less burdensome regulation.

H.R. 3118. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to authorize major medical facility construction projects for the Department, to improve administration of health care by the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3159. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3815. An act to make technical corrections and miscellaneous amendments to trade laws.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 2, 1996, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bills:

S. 640. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 811. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies regarding the desalination of water and water reuse, and for other purposes.

S. 1044. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize provisions relating to health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1467. An act to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes.

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S. 2153. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located in Brewer, Maine, as the "Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Post Office Building," and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1010) to amend the "unit of general local government" definition for Federal payments in lieu of taxes to include unorganized boroughs in Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-396).

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1889) to authorize the exchange of certain lands conveyed to the Kenai Natives Association pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to make adjustments to the National Wilderness System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-397).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2187. A bill to reauthorize appropriations for the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

S. 2188. A bill to provide for the retention of the name of the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming known as "Devils Tower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 2189. A bill to enhance the administrative authority of the president of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and for